

REMARKS

Claims 15-26 are pending in the present application. Claims 15 and 16 have been amended and claim 14 has been canceled as a result of this response. No new claims have been added.

I. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ariyoshi et al. (GB 2,347,263 A). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Ariyoshi

Ariyoshi teaches an optical disk drive including a drive power transfer path switching mechanism for switching the drive power transfer path of the second motor between a path transferring power to the loading drive mechanism and a path transferring power to the pickup drive mechanism (page 5, lines 22-25). In Ariyoshi, the power transfer path switching rack 42 and cam channel 43 of the feed rack 40, along with other components combine to form a power transfer path switching mechanism for switching the transfer path of second motor 4 drive power (Figures 14-18; page 34, lines 1-21; and page 45, lines 9-16). In Ariyoshi, optical pickup 6 is **fixed** to the feed rack 40 by a screw 49, therefore, the optical pickup 6 can be moved bidirectionally front and back by sliding the feed rack 40 (page 27, lines 17-22; page 29, lines 18-23 and Figure 10).

In order to perform the switching operation, the motor moves the optical pickup 6 from the state shown in Figures 10 and 15 to the state shown in Figures 11 and 16 by continuing to drive the second motor 4 in the same direction (page 43, lines 2-16). “The feed rack 40 can move the optical pickup 6 to an inside circumference edge Sr position at the inside circumference limit of the data signal recording area of the disc 9, and can then continue beyond this position closer to the inside circumference of the disc 9. Furthermore, the second motor 4 drive power transfer path is switched by the feed rack to this specific position at the inside circumference... by continuing to drive the same motor 4... the disc 9 is automatically unclamped from the turntable 5 so that the disc can be ejected from the disk drive” (page 45, line 19 to page 46, line 19).

Since the drive power transfer path switching mechanism is structured in such a way that the feed rack 40 and fixedly connected optical pickup 6 must move to a different position closer to the inside circumference of the disc 9, as described above, to engage the drive power transfer path switching mechanism; it can therefore be stated that the drive power transfer path switching mechanism is **dependent** upon the optical pickup 6.

Remarks

The claimed invention provides a first operation switching mechanism (for performing a first switching operation for switching transmission path of the driving force of said dual-purpose drive source mechanism from a path leading to said pickup drive mechanism to a path leading to said turntable raising/lowering mechanism, or vice versa), wherein the first operation switching mechanism performs the first switching operation by an operation **independent** of the optical pickup under the driving force of the dual-purpose drive source mechanism. In the claimed invention, when the optical pickup 57 moves to the innermost position (and has stopped moving), the boss portion, 58a of the slide rack 58 causes the boss portion 58a to exert a driving force on the cam groove 69b of the trigger plate, thereby moving the trigger plates 69 in the X direction (page 20, lines 14-25). The cam slider 15 operated in response to the movement of the trigger plate 60 to thereby start the raising/lowering operation of the turntable 52 (page 20, lines 22-25). This enables the present invention to perform the aforementioned first switching operation while narrowing the moving range of the optical pickup since optical pickup does not have to be moved when performing a switching operation. More importantly, the first switching operation is performed by an operation independent of the optical pickup.

Ariyoshi fails to teach or disclose “said first operation switching mechanism performs said first switching operation by an operation independent of said optical pickup under said driving force of said dual-purpose drive source mechanism” (claim 15). In addition, Ariyoshi fails to teach or disclose “said first operation switching mechanism includes a slide rack movable under said rotatable driving force of said dual-purpose motor through said gear element, with said rack portion having moved to a position in which the transmission path of said driving force

from at least said gear element is interrupted, and performs said first switching operation by moving said slide rack, with said optical pickup placed in a fixed position” (claim 15).

Claim 15 has been amended to include all the limitations of claim 14 and claim 14 has been canceled. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, amended claim 15 is clearly distinguishable over Ariyoshi. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner’s indication that claims 16-26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 16 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, amended independent claim 16 and dependent claims 17-26 are clearly allowable.

III. Conclusion

All matters having been addressed in view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner’s reconsideration of this application, and the immediate allowance of all pending claims.

Applicant’s undersigned representative remains ready to assist the Examiner in any way to facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this matter. If any point remains an issue in which the Examiner feels would be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.


Application No. 10/528,996
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After Final Office Action of July 21, 2008

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Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account No. 02-2448. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any overpayments to the above-referenced deposit account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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